

File: Legislation & #

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

H.R. 3029, A Bill to Improve the Translation and Interpretation Services Available to the U.S. Government

FROM:

Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Deputy Director for Science and Technology Room 6E45, Headquarters

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3. Office of Legislative Liaison Room 7B24, Headquarters

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ATTN:

Legislation Division

The attached refers to a draft bill before Congress relating to State Department's establishment of a Bureau of Language Services.

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98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3029

To improve the translation and interpretation services available to the United States Government by providing for the establishment within the Department of State of a Bureau of Language Services, to be headed by an Assistant Secretary.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 1983

Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. SIMON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To improve the translation and interpretation services available to the United States Government by providing for the establishment within the Department of State of a Bureau of Language Services, to be headed by an Assistant Secretary.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That (a) the Congress finds and declares that—

4 (1) the availability of competent linguists for
5 translation and interpretation services is an essential
6 prerequisite for the effective conduct of United States
7 foreign policy, and is moreover vital to the Nation's

1 commercial ventures abroad and foreign intelligence
2 gathering activities;

3 (2) there is a critical and growing gap between
4 the needs of United States Government agencies for
5 foreign language specialists and the available supply of
6 such specialists, and this problem is aggravated by the
7 lack of prominent career paths for linguists in the
8 agencies of the United States Government;

9 (3) the ability of linguists presently employed by
10 the United States Government to provide translation
11 and interpretation services in a highly competent and
12 proficient manner is impaired by their subordinate
13 status within the administrative structure of the De-
14 partment of State and other agencies; and

15 (4) more than twenty-five agencies of the United
16 States Government utilize the services of foreign lan-
17 guage specialists, and there is a need for greater co-
18 ordination between these agencies to avoid duplication
19 of work and promote the use of uniform methods of
20 translation.

21 (b) There is established in the Department of State, in
22 addition to the positions provided under the first section of
23 the Act of May 26, 1949 (22 U.S.C. 2652), an Assistant
24 Secretary of State for Language Services, who shall be ap-
25 pointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent

1 of the Senate. The Assistant Secretary shall be the head of a
2 Bureau of Language Services and shall be responsible for—

3 (1) improving the translation and interpretation
4 services available to the President, the Department of
5 State, and the Foreign Service;

6 (2) providing a clearinghouse for the collection
7 and dissemination of information on translation and in-
8 terpretation services, including the availability of lin-
9 guists, among all of the agencies of the United States
10 Government;

11 (3) emphasizing the importance of foreign lan-
12 guage skills to United States economic and diplomatic
13 objectives, and promoting the study of key foreign lan-
14 guages by United States citizens through enhancing
15 the role of foreign language specialists in the United
16 States Government; and

17 (4) avoiding duplication of work, and promoting
18 the use of uniform methods of translation, by the var-
19 ious agencies of the United States Government which
20 engage in translation activities.

21 (c)(1) Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is
22 amended by adding at the end thereof the following new
23 paragraph:

24 “Assistant Secretary for Language Services, De-
25 partment of State.”.

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1 (2) The amendment made by paragraph (1) of this sub-
2 section shall take effect on October 1, 1983.

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